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W. W. BOOTH, EDITOR AND MANAGER

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WANING OF PROHIBITION

NOW that citizens have sensed the great injustice of setting up a bone dry government for the whole country they are taking steps to assert their rights. The awakening comes from the oldest states such as Vermont and Massachusetts, the home of rock-ribbed ideas where native Americans preponderate in the population. Vermont has shown a stronger affiliation with the wets than was expected from that quarter while Massachusetts has registered a preference for high license in opposition to dry measures on which the state voted Monday. The most singular feature of the vote is the action of the two oldest towns in the state where they had experienced absolute prohibition for a quarter of a century repenting of their folly and casting a popular majority for the license system.

DEATH KNELL OF INDUSTRY

THE league of nations has found another ally. The somewhat active and very talkative American Free Trade League recently held a meeting in New York City, the idea of the meeting being "to give a spurt to the free trade movement while international relations are being solved by a league of nations and to band together all organizations and individuals opposed to tariff barriers and favoring free trade."

So the American farmer, the American manufacturer and the American miner, the tripod on which rests the prosperity of the nation, have another thing to consider in deciding whether or not they will accept the league of nations idea, namely, the prospect of competition with Europe, the Orient and the rest of the world in the commodities which they produce stripped of all tariff duties. The country has it at present, under a Democratic tariff law framed over five years ago, and now averaging 6 per cent on all imports. This was felt cruelly in 1914 as we will again before the people congregate at the polls in 1920, but it is in accordance with the principles of the league of nations that the free trade policy be accepted as a permanent policy removed from the constitutional jurisdiction of congress to handle all bills for raising revenue.

WILSON ARRIVES AT BREST

PRESIDENT WILSON is due to arrive at Brest today. It is begging the question to inquire how long he will remain in that pesthole where our demobilizing camp has been established, where 250,000 and more gallant soldiers have embarked for home with curses on the country that consigned them to that horrible unsanitary hole where the rain falls 435 days of the year and no provision was made for the comfort or welfare of the boys who are not allowed to write a word about their environment. If the president would only delay his journey to the gay French capital long enough he would find abundant proof of the charges that have been freely circulated by men who have been emancipated from the red tape of militarism. Some of the things he would find would demonstrate to his satisfaction that the war department, with plenty of time for preparation, did nothing to provide for the comfort of the army detained awaiting ships to carry them to their homes across the Atlantic. He would discover that soldiers were left there without any adequate housing, that they were left to spend their nights yawning in muddy ooze and sleep on the bare ground with rivulets of water coursing beneath them. He would find that many of them were equipped with no sleeping facilities or protection better than pup tents which are generously furnished for men engaged in field maneuvers and designed solely for temporary use. Among other things he would have no difficulty in tracing would be the discomforts endured by the men who remained for weeks under covering through which rain poured day and night and for which no effort of the department was applied for remedying or protecting sick soldiers from the elements which menaced their lives and delayed their convalescence. These statements have been freely bandied about and the truth of every allegation is admitted officially by General Pershing in replying to a congressional inquiry in which he said that "conditions are greatly improved." This implies there was ample room for improvement. The fault does not lie with the high command of the army but with the war department which devoted most of its consideration to finishing the construction of southern cantonments long after the signing of the armistice precluded any further use for such places. During President Wilson's first stay in France he was within a night's journey of the sinkhole at Brest and a few minutes delay in his impetuous rush to attend the peace conference would have convinced him that the wretched conditions demanded immediate attention. The embarkation camp at Brest was supposed to have been chosen months before suspension of hostilities and when the armistice was signed there remained ample time for the erection of suitable buildings for the accommodation of all branches of the service.

The management of the camp at Brest is one of the most deplorable of the overseas scandals which have shocked parents who imagined their boys would receive every possible attention after emerging from the hellhole trenches. If Mr. Wilson would only spare a few hours to see what misery our fighting men endured for the love of country, he would have nothing more than a feeling of humanity that would have endeared him to the American people, but he scorned to stoop to a personal inquiry that was not beneath the dignity of King George or President Poincare who, during the four years of war, were so solicitous about the welfare of their soldiers that they frequently inspected the quarters of the men afire.

CLIPPED AND CREDITED

Germany's greatest loss in the war was her future.—Cleveland Press.

And we shall beat our swords into plowshares and our shoulder-bays into political platforms.—Greenville Piedmont.

"The old order is dead," Chancellor Ebert announces to the German national assembly. The word would breathe more easily if the old order were dead, too.—New York Tribune.

High Bolshevik officials will be punished by death for ineptitude. That will keep a lot of them struggling to remain down in the sinks.—Detroit News.

Another reason why Russian factions are not permitted on the peace commission is that it would probably require changing the name and purposes of the commission.—Detroit Free Press.

Von Hindenburg is trying to persuade the ex-kaiser to return to Germany. This is the first sign that the old field marshal entertains any hard feelings toward his former boss.—Charleston News.

HUMILIATING SIGHT OF SOLDIERS TREATED LIKE PRISONERS OF WAR

(Special Correspondence)

WASHINGTON, March 12.—For reasons which must strike the ordinary citizen as wholly inadequate, the war department caused the returned soldiers from the District of Columbia to parade through the streets of the national capital without rifles, thus giving them every appearance of a bunch of prisoners rather than a returning victorious army. If this is a precedent to be followed elsewhere throughout the country, pacifism has evidently determined to lose no opportunity to humiliate the fighting men.

For more than two weeks a great amount of space was occupied in the Washington papers with stories relating to the subject. Dozens of conferences were held with war department officials by those in charge of the parade and a pronounced effort was made to get rifles for the men. After unwinding hundreds of yards of red tape, it was discovered that the only way to get guns for the men was to have them re-enlist in either the guard or the regular army. At this period of the game it appeared as hard to get rifles for the men as it was at the beginning of the war when men were forced to train with wooden rifles.

Then the talk changed to having the men bonded for the return of the guns after the parade so that the war department would get them back all nice and waxed. Robert N. Harper, chairman of the parade committee, was quoted repeatedly as making every effort to get enough guns and

TAME SWANS SLAIN BY HUNGRY FOLKS

Berlin, March 12.—Tame swans which have paddled about the park ponds of this city have been mysteriously disappearing, the Vorwaerts states. The paper expresses the belief that they are being stolen and slaughtered for food. Tame deer in Grunewald and on the former emperor's game preserves in the vicinity of Potsdam are reported to be meeting a similar fate.

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ROSE FROM PLOUGHBOY TO PARLIAMENT SEAT

(By Associated Press)

LONDON, March 12.—From ploughboy to member of parliament, was the remarkable rise of Joseph Arch, who recently died at the age of 92. He was a unique figure in English parliamentary life, being in 1885 the

sole workingman member of the house of commons. At that time there was no kind of labor party here.

Mr. Arch achieved fame as the champion of the English farm laborer when the tiller of the soil reared his family on a wage of \$2 a week, subsisted chiefly on barley bread and hardly knew the taste of tea or sugar. In 1872 he enrolled 200 farm workers in an organization that came to be known as the National Agricultural Laborers' Union, whose leaders the bishop of London wanted to duck in a horsepond. "Adult baptism," Mr. Arch rejoined to the bishop's statement, "is not the rule of the church of England. Mr. Arch is credited with having done more than any other man to improve the

conditions of England's peasantry.

He was popular in parliament. One of his constituents was the Prince of Wales, afterward King Edward. He referred to Mr. Arch as "my member."

Mr. Arch also was a primitive Methodist preacher. He was fond of his pipe and an occasional glass of ale.

Common sense is not so common after all.

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